

Individual Proposal Report

Title: Merced River Ranch Acquisition and Restoration (H122)

Geographic Area: San Joaquin Tributaries/Merced River

Primary Stressor Addressed: Floodplain/Marshplain Changes

Project Type: Implementation

Applicant Type and Name: State. California Department of Fish and Game, Clarence Mayott, (209) 243-5004, extension 171.

Funding: The applicant has requested \$1,325,000. It is recommended that \$658,000 be funded for land purchase and funding for the reclamation/restoration be considered in future years.

Cost Share: DFG will provide long term operations and maintenance on the property. In addition, \$45,488 will be provided from DFG staff in-kind services for the acquisition and planning related activities.

Project Description: The applicant proposes to acquire a 318-acre parcel along the Merced River near Snelling. The primary purpose of this acquisition is the protection, enhancement, and restoration of valuable riparian, wetland and aquatic habitats along the Merced River. The property also contains large deposits of gravel (dredger tailings) which will be used for construction of salmon spawning and rearing projects in the basin.

ERPP Linkage: The proposal meets the goals of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED, Volume II, 28 July 1997) as it should help to provide conditions for riparian vegetation growth along sections of rivers in the East San Joaquin Basin Ecological Zone (page 390).

AFRP Linkage: This proposal contributes toward making all reasonable efforts to at least double natural production of anadromous fish as it supports the following action listed in the Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (USFWS, 30 May 1997): Improve watershed management to restore and protect instream and riparian habitat, including restoring and replenishing spawning gravel (Merced River Action 3, page 85)

Applicant's Proposed Monitoring: None proposed for this phase of the project. CALFED staff will review and determine the need for monitoring.